

EMBASSY OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir!

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in the Czech Republic 2018

Ambassador Charles Sheehan and the Embassy of Ireland are delighted to wish you a very happy St. Patrick's Day and look forward to celebrating the National Day with the Irish community and friends of Ireland in the Czech Republic. For more news from the Embassy follow us on **Facebook: Embassy of Ireland Prague** and **Twitter: @IrlEmbPrague**.



Minister of State for Disability Issues visits Prague



The Embassy is proud to announce that Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath T.D., is coming to visit Prague for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Minister McGrath was appointed Minister of State for Disability Issues in May 2016. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann at the 2002 General Election. His programme in the Czech Republic will include a meeting with Health Minister, Adam Vojtěch, and a tour of Kladruby Rehabilitation Hospital. Minister McGrath will also attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which is part of the Jameson Festival, the Czech-Irish Business and Cultural Association St. Patrick's Day Gala Dinner, the Embassy official reception and St. Patrick's Day Mass.

Annual St. Patrick's Day Mass

The traditional St. Patrick's Day Mass will take place on Sunday, 18 March at 12:00 in St. Thomas Church, Josefská 8, Prague 1, followed by light refreshments.

Join Minister of State McGrath and Ambassador Sheehan at this annual commemoration of our national saint. The Minister will lay a wreath at the Irish Patron's Altar.

Jameson Festival offers more Irish Culture this Year

The biggest ever St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Czech Republic will take place during the upcoming weekend in several locations in Prague (Kampus Hybernská, Rock Café, 36 Underground, Kino Pilotů).

Desmond Elliot Prize-winning author Lisa McInerney will launch her new novel in Kampus Hybernská on Friday, 16 March at 6 p.m.

There will be a big parade on Saturday, 17 March at 3 p.m., which will go from Hybernská Street around the city centre through Old Town Square, Národní třída and Wenceslas Square. Minister McGrath will launch the parade.

Kampus Hybernská will offer Irish music, lectures and workshops throughout the day.

Music lovers can visit Rock Café or 36 Underground clubs in the evening to see Celtic punk band *Blood or Whiskey*, *Travis O'Neill & His Cardinal Sins*, *Grainne Hunt* or *Marpo*.

Kino Pilotů will be screening Irish films, among them *Handsome Devil* or *This Ain't No Disco*.

For more information about the festival visit www.jamesonsvatypatrik.cz or www.facebook.com/events.

St. Patrick's Day Prague

As Breith Laidir! Eanáir agus Márta
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

arts station the art of film CHARLES UNIVERSITY

EFACIS IFFI Irish Film Institute Culture Ireland Cultúr Éireann

The Irish Itinerary 2018

St. Patrick's Day Films
March 17th at Kino Pilotů,
Donská 19, Praha 10

This Ain't No Disco, 7pm
by Myles O'Reilly

The Queen of Ireland, 7.30pm
by Conor Horgan

Handsome Devil, 9.30pm
by John Butler

Killing of a Sacred Deer, 9.45pm
by Yorgos Lanthimos

More info at
www.kinopilotu.cz

This Irish Itinerary event is locally organized by Kino Pilotu, the Irish Embassy Prague, and the Prague Centre for Irish Studies.

© EFACIS, Kino Pilotů

JAMESON
IRISH WHISKEY

Tour Svatého Patrika
Rock Cafe
(Národní 20) **17/3**
SINE METU

17:00 - 2:00

Blood Or Whiskey /IRL/
Travis O'Neill & His Cardinal Sins /IRL, CZ/
Grainne Hunt /IRL/
Open Mic: Zoe Hayter Meow ad
Barmanská show Irské tance
Moderuje Pavel Anděl

Vstupné 150,- (pouze 18+)
WELCOME DRINK V CENĚ

www.jamesonsvatypatrik.cz
www.jameson.cz #sinemetu #bezestrachu
Pijte s rozumem

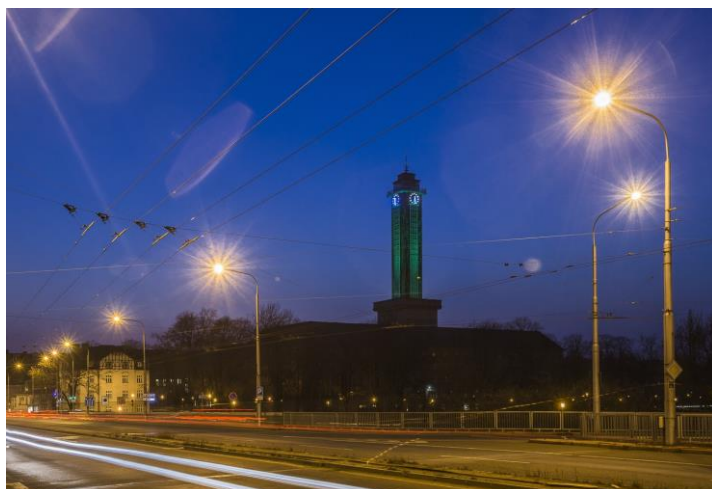
© Jameson Festival

Piper Liam O'Flynn passes away after long illness

The Embassy is sad to announce that Irish musician Liam O'Flynn, master of the uilleann pipes, passed away at the age of 72 after a long illness. In 2010, he performed in Prague with the late Seamus Heaney in a concert hosted by then-Ambassador Richard Ryan. A great loss to our musical heritage.

O'Flynn was born into a musical family in Co Kildare and formed the influential traditional group Planxty in 1972 with Christy Moore, Andy Irvine and Donal Lunny. After the band broke up, in the mid-1980s, O'Flynn worked with Kate Bush, Emmylou Harris and Mark Knopfler, among others, as well as working with the poet Seamus Heaney and with the composer Shaun Davey on *The Brendan Voyage*.

Ostrava City Hall and Mergon Building will join World Greening in 2018



Ostrava City Hall © City of Ostrava



© Mergon Building, Brno

See more on the Greening project at: www.tourismireland.com.

Other Places to celebrate in Prague

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a traditional Irish environment, you can visit one of the Irish-style pubs in the city: J.J. Murphy's (www.bestirishbarprague.com), Caffrey's (www.caffreys.cz), James Joyce (www.jamesjoyceprague.cz), The Irish Times (www.irishtimesbar.cz), The Dubliner (www.aulddubliner.cz), Rocky O'Reilly's (www.rockyoreillys.cz), O'Che's (www.oches.com), Becketts Irish Pub (www.facebook.com/Becketts-Irish-Pub-338342216289849) or McCarthy's Irish Pub (www.mccarthys.cz). Fans of Irish dancing can visit La Loca (www.laloca.cz). Other Prague pubs and clubs are also hosting events to mark St. Patrick's Day.

Irish Walk in Prague

This traditional Irish dogs' walk starts on Saturday 17 March at 1 p.m. on Wenceslas Sq. and continues through the Old Town Square and across the Charles Bridge to Kampa and Malá Strana. Owners of Irish Setters and Greyhounds are welcome. More information at www.facebook.com/irskypochodprahou.



© Irský pochod Prahou

The Czech / Irish Business and Cultural Association continues to grow from strength to strength, bringing Ireland and the Czech Republic closer through shared business and cultural connections. Events are designed to bring people together – corporates, families and individuals through a diverse range of business, cultural and social events.

In November 2017, a new committee was elected and we look forward to building on the successful work of recent committees to grow the membership base and expand our business and cultural programmes. The CIBCA committee would like to thank all our members and friends for their outstanding support and generosity during 2017 and 2018. It has been a pleasure to welcome you to events which included the Christmas party in December 2017 in the James Joyce and the great ski weekend recently held in Harrachov in March 2018.

Our St Patrick's Day Gala Dinner will be held on 17th March in the sumptuous surroundings of the Grand Hotel Bohemia. We also look forward to hosting several events in the months to come including business events and mixers from May 2018, a Bloomsday event on June 16th and a late Summer BBQ for family and friends.

To stay up to date on the latest CIBCA news and for information of interest to the Irish community and friends of the Irish community in the Czech Republic, follow us on Facebook (Czech Irish Business and Cultural Association) and check our website www.cibca.cz For membership queries, please contact info@cibca.cz.

Saturday, March 17th, 2018

St. Patrick's Day Gala Dinner

– Black Tie –

More information and tickets available at www.CIBCA.cz



Time & Location

Saturday, March 17th, 2018 from 7:00pm - 2:00am
Grand Hotel Bohemia, Královská 4, Prague 1

Tickets can be booked at www.CIBCA.cz

1,750Kc CIBCA Members

2,500Kc Non-members

Join our membership any time!

About The Event

The St. Patrick's Day Gala Dinner has been the premier event of the Czech-Irish Business & Cultural Association since it was founded in 1995. We invite all Irish expats and friends of Ireland to join us and celebrate with live entertainment, charity auction, dinner and drinks! Book your tickets early, seats are limited to 120 guests.



On behalf of the CIBCA committee – Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh!

Upcoming Cultural Events

25th Days of European Film Festival

The Days of European Film (DEF) will take place in Prague in the Světozor, Lucerna, Pilotů and Monofono cinemas from 5 to 12 April, and in the Scala cinema in Brno from 6 to 8 April. The Echoes of DEF will be held in the following towns: Hradec Králové, Boskovice, Jablonec nad Nisou, Havířov, Hodonín and Červený Kostelec from 17 to 22 April. The festival will feature an Irish drama *Mary Shelley*, a film about the love between Percy Byshe Shelley and young Mary, the future author of Frankenstein.



Mary Shelley

There will be three screenings in Prague – 9 April at 8.30 p.m. in Světozor cinema, 10 April at 9.00 a.m. in Světozor cinema (for schools) and 11 April at 6.30 p.m. in Lucerna cinema. The festival is a joint initiative by the European Commission and Member State Embassies in Prague. For further information visit <http://eurofilmfest.cz/en>.



Irish Film Institute



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

Irish May – Festival of Irish Culture in Prague

The Irish May festival will take place during the first weekend in May (4-6 May) in the Celetná Theatre in Prague (www.divadloviceletne.cz). The programme will comprise of music, dance and theatre performances. Information may be found at www.irsky-maj.cz.

Open-air Festival on Střelecký ostrov

The Irish Embassy will have a stand at the main event celebrating the Schuman Day. As in previous years, the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic organises a series of events commemorating Schuman Day (9 May) so called "European Days". The main event celebrating the Europe Day will be an open-air public information and cultural event held on Wednesday, 9 May on Střelecký ostrov in Prague. It will feature a cultural programme including a concert of famous Czech bands and other artists, public information stands, debates and contests, as well as a supervised play area for children and other activities.

Literature Night

The Embassy will this year again participate in the Literature Night, an event organised by the Czech Centres in cooperation with EUNIC and Book World Festival in Prague. It aims at presenting contemporary European literature in new translation into Czech to the broad public. The event, which will include a reading of Irish classic *Cré na Cille (Hřbitovní hlína)* by Máirtín Ó Cadhain, will take place on 9 May, on the eve of Book World Festival in the Prague 1 Staré Město district.



Máirtín Ó Cadhain

The venues are within walking distance and one reading (performed by a popular Czech actor/actress) takes about 30 minutes.

The Literature Night will this year also have a stand at the Day of Europe festival on 9 May on Sřtelecký ostrov, where it will present European children's literature.

For further information visit www.literaturenight.eu.

Prague Feis



© Prague Feis, Rinceoirí

The Prague Feis is an international competition organised by Rinceoirí dance group, which is open to all dancers from all regions. The event attracts hundreds of dancers from all over the world. It is officially run by the McGahan Lees Academy Prague, under whose name Rinceoirí dancers are competing at feisanna.

The 10th anniversary of the feis will take place from 26 to 27 May in ZŠ Kunratice, Předškolní 420/5, 148 00, Prague 4.

BERNARD'S SUMMER SCHOOL

"The biggest Irish dance and music week-long event in Central Europe"

18. - 24.8.2018 | www.bernards.cz

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

DANCE CLASSES

- Jason O'Neill (UK) Irish step dancing
- Andrej Mikulka (SK) Irish step dancing
- Markéta Utišilová (CZ) sean-nós dancing
- John Cullinane (IRL) 30 lost figure dances
- David Dvořák (CZ) American country dances

MUSIC CLASSES

- tin whistle Anna Šúrová (CZ)
- Irish flute Robert Harvey (IRL)
- classical flute Radvan Markus (CZ)
- fiddle Ultan O'Brien (IRL)
- harp Václava van der Meijs (CZ)
- guitar (fingerpicking) Jiří Blecha (CZ)
- bodhrán Ladislav Veselý (CZ)

OTHER CLASSES

- Robert Harvey (IRL) Irish liting
- Michal Boleslav Měchura (CZ) Irish language

Irish Business in the Czech Republic: Enterprise Ireland

Ireland's economic recovery is continuing at a robust pace despite a challenging regional and global environment. Growth was initially driven by exports but has since broadened with domestic demand now making a strong positive contribution. Real GDP rose by 5.1% in 2016, while GDP increased by almost 7 ½% in the first three quarters of 2017, although the headline figure overstates the pace of underlying growth in the economy which is closer to 5%. The Department of Finance is forecasting real GDP growth of 3.5% in 2018 and 3.2% in 2019. Both net exports and underlying domestic demand – that is excluding the volatile components of investment spending – should contribute positively this year and next. Unemployment has fallen from a peak of 16% in early 2012 to 6.1% in January 2018. This is below the EU (7.3%) and Eurozone (8.7%) averages. Ireland's debt to GDP ratio is also on a firm downward trajectory. Having peaked at just under 120% of GDP in 2012, it is projected to reach 70.1% of GDP in 2017 and 60% of GDP by 2022.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) continues to be a key contributor to Ireland's economic development and growth. Over 1,300 foreign-owned companies have put down roots in Ireland and employ 10% of the Irish workforce. These include many of the world's most successful global businesses, which have chosen Ireland as their strategic base in Europe. Ireland is consistently ranked as one of the most competitive economies in the world and is proud of being marked as the most productive economy in Europe.

In 2017 goods exports from Ireland totalled €122bn, the highest annual total on record. This is an increase of €2,846 million (+2%) over 2016. According to the Czech Statistical Office, Irish export of goods to the Czech Republic increased by 34% to €1.5bn while imports to €572m. Czech Republic and Central Europe continues to be a key market for Irish goods and services, especially in the context of Brexit and market diversification efforts of Irish companies. Enterprise Ireland's office in Prague assists client companies in several markets in Central and Southeast Europe by providing tailor-made market research, business lead generation and introductions to buyers. The business drive to Czech market will be supported by Ministerial trade mission to Prague planned for June 2018.

www.enterprise-ireland.com



News from the Centre for Irish Studies

The Centre for Irish Studies at Charles University

The Centre is delighted to announce the publication of *Hřbitovní hlína*, a Czech translation of Máirtín Ó Cadhain's masterpiece *Cré na Cille* by Radvan Markus. The comic masterpiece was launched in Prague on 31 January by H.E. Charles Sheehan and Professor Alan Titley (UCC), and has been the subject of an extended programme on the Czech Radio and several complimentary reviews.



Radvan Markus at the launch of "Hřbitovní hlína"



Members of the Irish community in the Czech Republic are cordially invited to a forthcoming public lecture by Professor Mícheál Mac Craith (Franciscan Library, Killiney/ NUI Galway), "*Pietas Austriaca: Irish Exiles in Hapsburg Europe*", which will be delivered at Charles University on 9 May. In the autumn, the Centre will be the proud host of a public reading and a lecture by the acclaimed Irish-language poet and prose writer, Biddy Jenkinson.

Two of the most innovative contemporary Irish poets, Ailbhe Darcy and Aidan McCardle, will perform as part of the 2018 Prague Microfestival (24-27 May at Venuše ve Švehlovce, Slavíkova 22, Prague 3). Founded by Louis Armand, the festival will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year.

The academic highlight of the season will be the international conference "Samuel Beckett and Technology", which will take place at Charles University on 13-15 September. The event will bring together seventy delegates from across the world to discuss the manifold intersections of technology with Beckett's oeuvre and contemporary uses of digital, medical, and other technologies in new approaches to staging, performing, and interpreting Beckett's work.

Information and updates on the activities of the Centre are available on its website (http://ualk.ff.cuni.cz/irish_studies), which also contains an extensive searchable bibliography of the cultural relations between Ireland and the Czech lands from the 17th century up till the present day, studies on Czech-Irish relations in the 20th century by Daniel Samek, and an online library catalogue. Courses of the Irish language are offered on three different levels, taught on the premises of both Charles University and Palacký University, Olomouc.

The Centre gratefully acknowledges the generous long-term support of the Embassy of Ireland, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

Bliain na Gaeilge

Bliain na Gaeilge is a project the Taoiseach launched at the end of last year, to celebrate 125 years of the Irish Language revival movement.

The aim of Bliain na Gaeilge 2018 is to celebrate the Irish language through action on five themes: the revival of the language over the last 125 years; the creativity of the language; the vibrancy of the language; the participation of the community; and the value of our Gaeltachtaí.

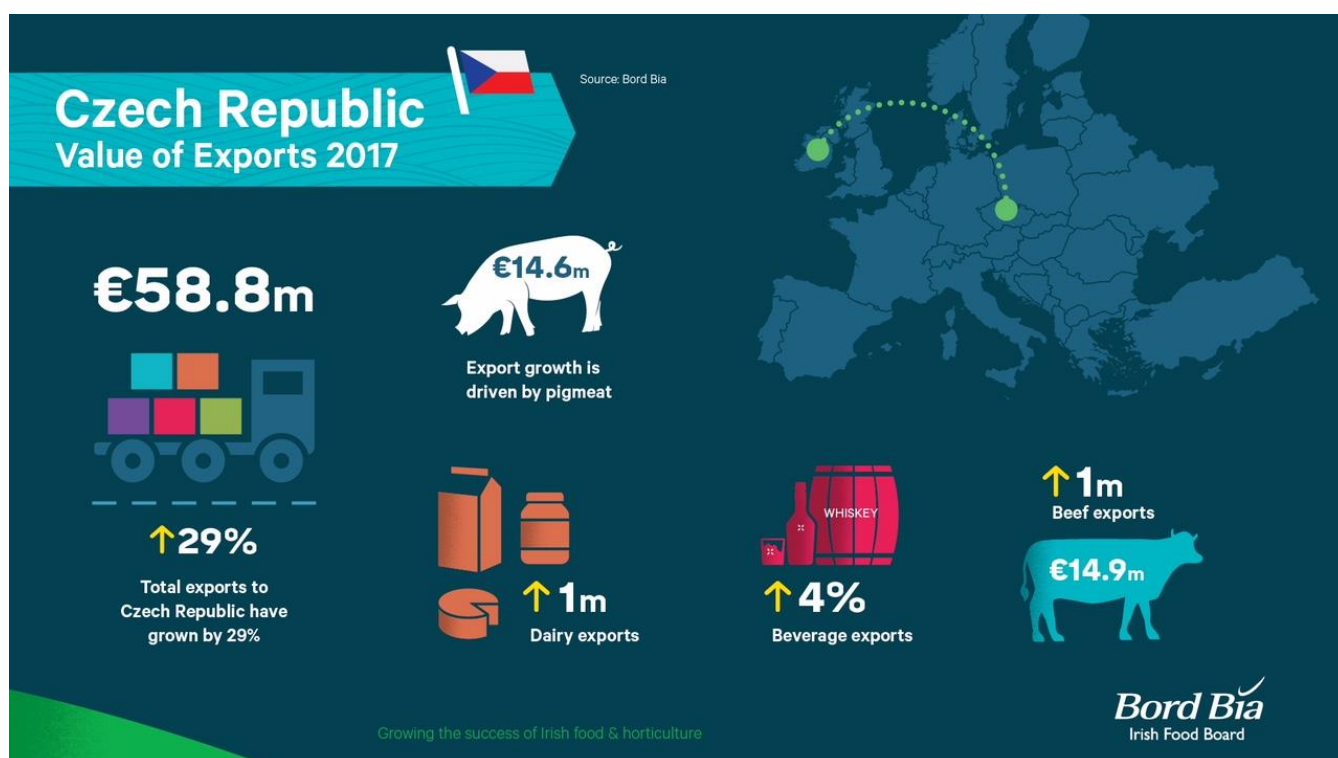
The Embassy participated in the #TrasnaNadTonnta, an online cyber-Gaeltacht event, which can be seen on our Twitter feed.

Bord Bia

Bord Bia (The Irish Food Board) is the Irish government agency charged with the promotion, trade development and marketing of the Irish food, drink and horticulture industry. Bord Bia's mission is to drive through market insight and, in partnership with industry, the commercial success of a world class Irish food, drink and horticulture industry.

Bord Bia works in partnership with industry to increase the sales and exports of Irish food, drink and horticulture by developing long-term relationships between Irish companies and trade buyers. It operates programmes to develop and foster contact between buyers and Irish companies, including participation at international trade exhibitions, and co-coordinating inward buying visits.

The agency has its Head Office in Dublin and thirteen strategically located offices in key export markets. The offices are located in Amsterdam, Dubai, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, New York, Paris, Singapore, Stockholm, Shanghai, and Warsaw (recently opened, covers the Czech Republic).



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